

REMARKS

In the Election Requirement, the Examiner required election between the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Figures 1 and 2 deal with an electrical component system having a connector assembly.

Figures 3-6 deal with an electrical component system having an open rail system connector assembly.

Figure 7 deals with an electrical component system having a connector assembly with capacitors.

Figures 8 and 9 deal with an electrical component system having a sequential connection connector assembly.

A species dealing with an electrical component system having tertiary power conductors is not shown.

As discussed further below, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's species categories. Nonetheless, Applicants elect the species identified with Figures 1 and 2 and, furthermore, respectfully assert that claims 1-12 and 15-73 fall within this species. Accordingly, Applicants have withdrawn claims 13 and 14.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the present patent application, in a general sense, relates to placement of an electrical component at various operating configurations. For example, the present invention relates to an electrical component that is transitionable between a fully operating position at which the electrical component receives main power, a service position at which the electrical component receives secondary power, and a network communications position at which the electrical component only receives data signals. Although transition of the electrical component between these various positions can be accomplished via a connector, other methodologies of accomplishing this task are also envisaged, such as the use of a cable,

for instance. Indeed, a review of the claims demonstrates that a connector assembly, although novel, is not the only manner of implementing the invention. Only a few of the pending claims of the present patent application specifically recite a connector assembly, while many of them could read on implementations that use such connection assemblies, and that would, hence, read on the elected species.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the Undersigned to discuss the advancement of the pending claims to substantive prosecution. Indeed, a short teleconference between the Undersigned and the Examiner will significantly advance prosecution of the pending claims, which are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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